



## ***We Are LGBTQ HISTORY!***

*This Way Out* has been selected as a first-year collection to be preserved under the auspices of the Library of Congress' Sound Submissions program.

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### ***This Way Out* Radio (1988– ): Preserving an LGBTQ Collection from Closets and Collectives** By Brian DeShazor

What began as an idea at the March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights in 1979 took nine years until *This Way Out*: The International LGBTQ radio magazine debuted on the air on April 1, 1988 via the National Public Radio satellite. Thirty-four years and 1774 programs later, the opportunity to preserve and make the collection accessible for research comes thanks to the Radio Preservation Task Force's [Sound Submissions](#) program under the direction of Josh Shepperd. Sound Submissions is a digital humanities program in the Recorded Sound Section of the Library's National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC). Sound Submissions establishes a curatorial team to facilitate donations of digitized recordings and associated metadata for ingestion into the Library's permanent digital archive.

*This Way Out's* stalwart producers, Lucia Chappelle and Greg Gordon, have worked through the development of radio production from reel-to-reel tape edited with razor blades to today's digital world. Consequently, the collection reflects that technical evolution, divided between reel-to-reel tapes (1988–2000) held in the [Pacifica Radio Archives](#) on-site, off-site storage facilities, and digital files (2000–current), on various digital storage devices from Jaz discs to external hard drives sequestered in producer's closets.

The reel-to-reel tape collection exists because the producers had the foresight to secure the tapes in the Pacifica Program Service/Pacifica Radio Archives for safekeeping and distribution via Pacifica's affiliate satellite system. Changing production procedures of the digital age made it challenging to keep the programs archived when there were no established standards.

The preservation of the collection begins with phase one: attention to the "born digital" programs. Ironically this presents more challenges than the reel-to-reel tapes — retrieving the content from the obsolete Jaz discs and multiple hard drives. Phase two will address the reel-to-reel tapes.

The weekly newsmagazine has chronicled queer life in audio and now it will be cemented in history for the future. When the project is complete *This Way Out* producers will have more access to the programs for historical reference and new storytelling.

An example of how this is when in December, 2021, I produced a three-part series on Steven Reigns book, "[A Quilt for David](#)", about David Acer, a Florida dentist accused of infecting eight of his patients. There are no known recordings of David himself and the only media references were homophobic and cruel. *This Way Out* producer Lucia Chappelle remembers the case and believes *This Way Out* reported on it in the 1990's. It would have been incredible to find this audio to use in the

contemporary piece, but the records are not that detailed and the tapes from that era are inaccessible at the Pacifica Radio Archives as they are stored in an off-site storage unit.

[Audio clip](#): The earliest digitized program of *This Way Out* from June 22, 1991, produced by Greg Gordon and Lucia Chapelle. Opening introduction and first story of *Newswrap* with Cindy Friedman and Mark Saccomano. One of seventeen digitized programs from the reel-to-reel period (1988-2000).

This Way Out is supported in part by contributions from our listeners. Some give a little each month, some make a larger annual contribution. More Information and a link to give a tax-deductible donation are online at [ThisWayOut.org/DONATE](http://ThisWayOut.org/DONATE).

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Tax deductible donations support the operations of [ThisWayOut.Org](http://ThisWayOut.Org) founded in 1988. It is an award-winning weekly half-hour audio magazine -- the only internationally distributed LGBTQ radio program -- currently airing on over 150 local community radio stations around the world, and online everywhere.

### **Our Contact Information**

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*This Way Out* is produced and distributed by Overnight Productions, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation whose mission is to educate, inform and entertain audiences around the world by making freely available the presentation of news, features and cultural works by and about the international lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community via audio broadcast and cyber media.